THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Government propose to talk with the Government of Nepal at an early date to resolve outstanding issues through a friendly dialogue. An invitation has been extended to Shri S. K. Upadhyaya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, to visit India. This visit is likely to take place in first week of January, 1990.

Withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka

216. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : *Will the Minister of* EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are following the policy of withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka ;

(b) if so, what is the total number of Indian troops returned from Sri Lanka during the last one year ; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating for the safety and security of the Sri Lankan Tamils in Sri Lanka ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By the end of the year six of the eighth Districts of the North-Eastern Province of Sri Lanka would have been vacated by the IPKF.

(c) Government have initiated steps to bring about amity between Tamil groups. At the request of the Prime Minister, Chief Minister Karunanidhi has already held talks with the LTTE for this purpose. Government are also in close touch with the Sri Lanka Government in order to ensure that arrangements for the safety and security of Tamils and other communities are strengthened simultaneously with the withdrawal of the IPKF.

Withdrawal of cases against Indira Gandhi Assassination accused

217. SHRI P.N. SUKUL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what are the reasons that prompted Government to withdraw the charges pending in a Delhi Court against the accused in the Indira Gandhi assassination case ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): Prosecution in the case which is also known as the larger conspiracy case, was withdrawan as it was found expedient to do so in the broader public interest ; maintenance of peace and to help promote harmony among the people in the changed political situation.

Selection of programmes for Social cultural and economic transformation

218. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 32 programmes have been selected for creating more positive atmosphere in the country for social, cultural and economic transformation by Doordarshan, Akashwani, National Film Development Corporation, Films Division, DAVP, Directorate of Field Publicity and Song and Drama Division; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, alongwith the mode of their selection of programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) Devising programmes for socio-economic and cultural transformation by making people aware of the

programmes and policies of the Govt., is a normal function of various media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Therefore, the question of selecting 32 particular programmes for this purpose does not arise. Some of the major themes which have been identified for devising programmes are the following:—

1. Rural Development
2. Urban Development
3. Poverty Alleviation
4. Health and Family Welfare
5. Literacy
6. Women and Child Welfare
7. Science and Technology
8. Environmental Protection
9. Employment Schemes
10. Special Schemes for Weaker Sections
11. Secularism
12. Cultural Heritage of India
13. National Unity and Integrity
14. Energy
15. Agriculture.

Survey conducted by Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad

219. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan Kendra, Hydrrabad conducted a survey on their programmes in Kakinada, Karimnagar and Cuddapah to assess their performance;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the survey revealed the performance of Telugu programmes at Hyderabad Doordarshan; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A field survey with a sample of 900 respondents conducted in July, 1988 at Karimnagar, Cuddapah and Kakinada LPT Centres in Andhra Pradesh revealed that feature films and film based programmes are the most preferred items, followed by Telugu news, sports, sponsored serials, national bulletins, Sumanjali and dance/music items. A significant improvement was noticed in regional programmes.

Doordarshan Kendras and Air Stations

220. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Doordarshan Kendras and Relay Stations as on date in the country alongwith their locations; and

(b) the number of AIR Stations alongwith their capacities and locations as on date?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMETARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) At present there are 508 TV Transmitting Centres in the country of which programme production facilities is available at 18 Centres. Details regarding location of these transmitters are given in the statement attached as Annexure-I [*See* Appendix CL II, Annexure No 6]

(b) At present there are 98 AIR Stations in the country. Details regarding their locations and capacities are given in the statement attached as Annexure-II [*See* Appendix CL II, Annexure No. 7]